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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK

AND FRIENDS

in

"ANCIENT PERSIA"

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

In commenting on Carl Barks' classic Donald Duck adventure, "In Ancient Persia," Barks scholar Geoffrey Blum has noted that it is one of the Old Duck Man's "most gripping adventures, capping seven years of gothic tales that began in 1943 with 'The Mummy's Ring.'" Blum goes on to point out that "In Ancient Persia" came about due to Barks' interest in classic movies of the horror genre; and certainly this story is rife with ideas, settings, and an overall mood borrowed from the original *The Mummy* (1932), starring Boris Karloff. And it has been observed that "Persia's" mad scientist looks as though he were modeled after the sinister-looking Karloff.

Adding to the appeal of the horror motif, of course, is Barks' legendary attention to detail. As with all of his globe-spanning epics, Barks relied heavily on photos gleaned from the *National Geographic* to make sure his settings were authentic and just right. All of which makes "In Ancient Persia" a treat to read and reread.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't call to everyone's attention that Free Comic Book Day falls on May 6th this year. This will mark the fifth year that comic book publishers and comic shop owners have united to bring fans a selection of books absolutely free of charge. Gemstone's offering this year is *Donald Duck* and is a collection of three Donald Duck ten-pagers—"Queen of the Ant Farm by Pat and Shelly Block, "Metaphorically Spanking" by Don Rosa, and "Their Loaded Forebear" by William Van Horn—reprinted from past years. To top it all off, the comic is wrapped with a seldom-reprinted Carl Barks cover from *Donald Duck* 29. Be sure to visit your participating comic specialty store to get your copy and to peruse the offerings from the various other contributing comic book publishers. If you don't know where the comic shop nearest to you is located, you can get plenty of nifty advice on where to find one by calling the Comic Shop Locator Service at 1-888-COMIC-BOOK (1-888-266-4226), or visit comicshoplocator.com.

—John Clark

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck
IN ANCIENT PERSIA
Story & Art: Carl Barks
(DDFC 275, May 1950)
Color: Scott Rockwell

Beagle Boys
PAYBACK
Story: Pat and Shelly Block
Art: Maria José Sánchez Núñez
Color: Egmont & Michael Kraiger
Lettering: Susie Lee

Front cover art by Daan Jippes, color by Sue Kolberg

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www.gemstonepub.com/disney

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WALT DISNEY'S

Donald Duck

"IN ANCIENT PERSIA"

BRRR!

BRRR!

BRRR!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU KIDS? WHAT ARE YOU SHUDDERING ABOUT?

GUFF AND STUFF

THAT MAN THAT JUST WALKED PAST TOWARD TOWN!

HE ALWAYS GIVES US THE **CREEPS**!

HE COMES FROM THE OLD HOUSE ON THE HILL!

AND HE HAS THE **STRANGEST** LOOK IN HIS EYES!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A **STRANGE** LOOK — POPEYED, FISH-EYED, OR BLEARY?

N-NO!

HE LOOKS LIKE HE — WELL, HE'LL BE COMING BACK SOON! YOU'LL SEE!

LATER!

BRRR! I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!

CHEMICALS DO NOT DROP

ALL THE KIDS OUT THIS WAY ARE SCARED OF HIM! THEY THINK HE'S A **MAD SCIENTIST** OR SOMETHING!

LET'S FOLLOW HIM AND SEE WHAT HIS RACKET IS!

SURE! WE CAN PEEK THROUGH HIS WINDOWS!

YOU KIDS STAY RIGHT **HERE**! I'LL NOT HAVE YOU PRYING INTO PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!

BESIDES, THAT GUY LOOKS **DANGEROUS**! REMEMBER THE OLD SAYING— **CURIOSITY IS WHAT KILLED THE CAT!**

AW, GEE! WE NEVER CAN DO ANYTHING!

AND THAT GUY SURE NEEDS TO BE **INVESTIGATED!**

LET'S SNEAK UP THERE AND SPY ON HIM, ANYWAY!

OKAY!

UNCA DONALD WILL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

WE CAN'T STAY LONG, SO MAKE IT SNAPPY!

YEAH, WE'LL HAVE TO BE HOME BEFORE SUPPER TIME!

THERE'S THE GUY'S HANG OUT! BRRR!

LOOKS SCARY, EVEN IN THE DAYLIGHT!

THAT LOWER WINDOW IS THE ONLY CLEAN ONE! MUST BE WHERE HE HAS HIS WORKSHOP!

SHHH!

MYRRH OF CHALDEE — TWO GRAMS! OIL OF ASSYRIAN ARTICHOKES — ONE JIGGER! SAP OF DEAD SEA CATTAILS — TWO SQUEEZES!

HE'S A MAD SCIENTIST, ALL RIGHT! MIXING SOME TERRIBLE CHEMICAL TO BLOW UP THE WORLD!

BRRR!

NOW — DUST OF A DEHYDRATED BEETLE — **FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD** —

ONE SMALL FRACTION OF A THUNDERBOLT — AND —

EYEEYIHEEEE! **I'VE DONE IT!**

WHAT DID HE DO?

I DON'T KNOW!

THE BUSH BROKE BEFORE I COULD SEE!

GET BACK UP THERE AND GRAB A LOOK! QUICK!

SO, SPIES! I THOUGHT I HEARD NOISES OUT HERE!

PEEPING TOMS AND VISITORS! BAH! REMEMBER THE OLD SAYING — **CURIOSITY IS WHAT KILLED THE CAT!**

SUPPERTIME!

WHERE DID THOSE KIDS GO? THEY'RE HALF AN HOUR LATE!

I BET I KNOW!

YES! HERE ARE THEIR TRACKS! THEY SNEAKED UP HERE IN SPITE OF MY WARNING!

GOOD EVENING, YOUNG MAN! **CURIOUS** ABOUT SOMETHING?

YES, I'M CURIOUS! I'M LOOKING FOR MY NEPHEWS!

THEY'RE RIGHT AROUND HERE! COME WITH ME! I'LL TAKE YOU TO THEM!

AN AIRPLANE!

YES! NO ONE KNOWS IT IS HERE! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF **YOU** SEE IT!

YOU SEE, I NEED SOME HELPERS FOR MY FINAL EXPERIMENTS, AND YOU AND YOUR NEPHEWS COULDN'T HAVE COME AROUND AT A BETTER TIME!

AWK!

MORNING!

WHAT THE DING DONG?

WHERE ARE WE?

WE'RE **FLYING**! WE'RE 'WAY OUT OVER THE OCEAN— NO! — WE'RE NOT!

THAT ROCK DOWN THERE— THAT'S THE ROCK OF **GIBRALTAR**!

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

I DON'T KNOW! LAST I REMEMBER, THAT MAD SCIENTIST WAS GIVING US A DRINK OF FUNNY-TASTING WATER!

IT PUT US TO SLEEP!

HE PUT **ME** TO SLEEP WITH A **BLACKJACK**!....BUT **WHERE** ARE WE GOING— AND **WHY**?

STOP BEING **CURIOUS**! YOU'LL KNOW **ALL** THE ANSWERS BEFORE MANY HOURS!

PILOT

AND **I** WILL KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE WEIRDEST RIDDLE OF THE ANCIENT WORLD! I WILL BE THE FIRST MAN TO TURN THE HEREAFTER INTO LAST WEEK!

I WISH HE'D TURN TODAY INTO YESTERDAY! I SURE MISS MY SUPPER!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER!

THOSE RUINS WE PASS FROM TIME TO TIME ARE ANCIENT CITIES — BABYLON, KISH, SUSA, AND SO FORTH!

THE CITY I SEEK — ITSA FAKA — LIES DIRECTLY BELOW! HANG ON! WE'RE GOING DOWN!

SOME TOWN!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BUT SAND!

YOU'LL SEE THE HANDLE OF A SHOVEL IN A FEW MINUTES!

ALL RIGHT, HELPERS! GET BUSY AND UNLOAD MY EQUIPMENT!

AND DON'T GET ANY IDEAS THAT I'M NOT **BOSS** AROUND HERE!

TOOLS ARE UNPACKED WHILE THE SCIENTIST STUDIES AN ANCIENT MAP AND SIGHTS THE SUN! THEN—

THAT IS THE SPOT! START DIGGING!

?

THIS IS THE CRAZIEST NONSENSE I EVER HEARD OF!

YESTERDAY I WAS HOME AMONG SENSIBLE PEOPLE! TODAY I'M DIGGING SAND IN PERSIA FOR A CRACKPOT THAT SEES CITIES UNDER EVERY DUNE! WHAT A LIFE!

CLANK!

I WAS **RIGHT**! THERE **IS** A CITY HERE! THAT'S A ROOF CORNICE!

LATER!

THAT'S ENOUGH DIGGING! FETCH LIGHTS! WE'RE GOING **IN**!

ROOF LOOKS SAFE! CARRY ON!

TORCHES STILL IN THEIR BRACKETS! LIGHT THEM, AND WE'LL GO DOWN THESE STAIRS!

SUFFERIN' HOPTOADS!

THIS IS THE ROYAL PALACE OF A CITY THAT DISAPPEARED UNDER THE DRIFTING SAND CENTURIES BEFORE THE BUILDING OF THE PYRAMIDS!

ANCIENT HISTORIANS TOLD **SOME** OF ITS SECRETS ON STONE SLABS IN HIEROGLYPHICS! **SOME**—BUT NOT ALL!

HERE'S A LOT OF WRITING! MAYBE YOU CAN FIND WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW THERE!

PERHAPS! BUT I HAVE A **BETTER** WAY!

I'LL ASK THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED HERE! **THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!**

GO THROUGH THE WHOLE PALACE! LIGHT THE TORCHES! WE NEED MORE GLOW IN THIS GLOOMY PLACE!

NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!

EVERY TIME I GET TO THINKING THAT SCIENTIST IS PRETTY SENSIBLE, HE POPS OFF WITH SOME NUTTY STATEMENT THAT'D PUT HIM IN THE LOONY BIN!

LIKE SAYING THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED HERE **THOUSANDS** OF YEARS AGO ARE STILL **ALIVE!**

HA! HA!

WHAT AM I LAUGHING ABOUT?...**MAYBE** THEY **ARE!**

THOUGHT I'D BETTER STICK WITH YOU KIDS! YOU MIGHT GET **S-SCARED** IN THIS G-R-R-RRISLY PLACE!

WHAT A FIND! THE ROYAL BATHTUB! JUST WHAT I NEED FOR MY **GREAT** EXPERIMENT!

THE TORCHES ARE ALL LIT, **BOSS!**

GOOD! YOU BOYS FILL THIS TUB! DONALD, FOLLOW ME!

WE'RE GOING DOWN INTO THE CATACOMBS!

HERE IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE! IT WILL DO FOR A STARTER!

ACCORDING TO **VERY** OLD HISTORY, THE PEOPLE OF ITSA FAKA WERE ALWAYS **DEHYDRATED** WHILE LIVING!

THIS INSCRIPTION SAYS THE ENCLOSED ROYAL FAMILY CHOSE TO GO TO THE DRIERS RATHER THAN FACE PUBLIC DISGRACE!

YOU MEAN THEY WERE **DRIED** LIKE **PRUNES**?

MORE SO! THEY WERE DRIED **COMPLETELY** INTO **DUST**!

QUACK! QUACK!

SEE! A **KING** AND HIS WHOLE RETINUE!

BOYS, GO OUT TO THE SUPPLY DUMP AND BRING THE BOX MARKED 'A'!

GOSH!

WATER ALONE WILL RESTORE A DRIED PRUNE! BUT **MORE** THAN WATER IS NEEDED TO BRING THESE ANCIENTS BACK TO THEIR FORMER STATE!

LATER!

EVERYTHING IS READY TO GO! WATCH OUT! NO TELLING WHAT MAY HAPPEN!

I'LL TRY THE FORMULA I USED FOR RESTORING AN ANCIENT BEETLE TO LIFE!

MYRRH OF CHALDEE!... OIL OF ASSYRIAN ARTICHOKES!.... SAP OF DEAD SEA CATTAILS!

NOW, ONE SMALL PART OF A **THUNDERBOLT**!

HAW! HAW! **NOTHING HAPPENED!**

SAY, I SMELL **PERFUME**!

SO DO I!

AND-AND-WHADDYA KNOW! ALL OF A SUDDEN I CAN **READ** THAT FUNNY WRITING ON THE WALLS!

YOU'VE INHALED SOME OF THE THOUGHT PROCESSES OF THOSE REVIVING PEOPLE! THE FORMULA IS **WORKING**!

LOOK! SHAPES ARE TAKING SHAPE! WE'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR LANGUAGE WHEN THEY EMERGE!

BACK! STAND BACK! GIVE THEM ROOM!

BROTHER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME **THAT** TWICE!

SO I LIVE AGAIN! I, KING NEVVAWAZA, IMPERIAL POTENTATE OF ALL ITSA FAKA AND ADJOINING SUB-DIVISIONS!

YES, PAPA!

GAD! EVEN THEIR **JEWELS** HAVE BEEN DUST!

SOMEONE HAS TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO REVIVE US, DAUGHTER! LET US HOPE IT IS TO A LUCKIER DEAL THAN WE HAD BEFORE!

YES, PAPA!

GOOD EVENING, YOUR MAJESTY! I AM THE "SOMEONE" WHO REVIVED YOU!

SO! (SNORT!) I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO THANK YOU OR **KICK** YOU!

HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY **HAPPY**!

NO! HE'S TELLING THE SCIENTIST SOMETHING — LISTEN!

MY DAUGHTER WAS BETROTHED TO THE RASCALLY PRINCE, CAD ALI CAD, BUT HE JILTED HER! UNLESS THAT WRONG CAN BE RIGHTED, WE'D PREFER TO REMAIN **DUST**!

NEVER MIND YOUR FAMILY TROUBLES! I WANT TO KNOW **HOW** YOU PEOPLE WERE TURNED TO DUST! **WHAT** WAS THE PROCESS?

STOP BUTTING IN WHEN THE **KING** IS TALKING!

PAPA! **LOOK**!

BY THE TWO-HEADED RAM OF ISWA! 'TIS **HE** — **PRINCE CAD ALI CAD!**

SO YOU **WOULD** FLEE TO THE DRIERS ON YOUR WEDDING DAY, CAD — AND LEAVE MY DAUGHTER BAWLING AT THE ALTAR!

YOU'LL NOT GET AWAY WITH IT **THIS** TIME! YOU'LL MARRY HER **NOW**!

MY PRINCIE BOY!

LAY OFF, YOU OLD FOSSIL!

THAT'S NOT PRINCE CAD ALI CAD!

THAT'S **UNCA DONALD**!

A LIE!

DID YOU WANT US, YOUR MAJESTY?

YES!

TAKE THE PRINCE TO HIS QUARTERS AND DRESS HIM IN HIS WEDDING FINERY!

NOW WERE YOU PEOPLE DRIED? WHAT WAS THE PROCESS?

YOU BOTHER ME ONCE MORE, AND I'LL HAVE **YOU** DRIED!

HUEY, LOUIE, DEWEY! HELP ME OUT OF THIS MESS!

ALL I CAN MAKE OF THINGS IS THAT CAD ALI CAD LOOKED A LOT LIKE UNCA DONALD! AND THAT HE HAD HIMSELF TURNED INTO DUST RATHER THAN MARRY THAT DUMPY PRINCESS!

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SAVE UNCA DONALD IS TO FIND CAD ALI CAD! COME ON!

YOU MEAN WE — ?

YES! HIS DUST IS DOWN **HERE** SOMEWHERE! FIND IT, AND WE CAN SOAK HIM BACK TO LIFE! THERE'S STILL SOME SOLUTION IN THE BATHTUB!

BROTHER, WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK!

TO LOOK AT THE DUST ON THESE CLOTHES, YOU'D THINK THEY WERE **5000** YEARS OLD!

THEY **ARE**!

GET INTO THEM! YOU'RE OVERDUE AT THE CEREMONY!

I TELL YOU I'M THE **WRONG** GUY!

HERE'S CAD ALI CAD'S DUST BOWL - AND HE'S **IN** IT!

LUCKY WE CAN READ THIS FUNNY WRITING!

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T MARRY ME WITHOUT A **PREACHER**!

I'M THE PREACHER!

HUEY, LOUIE, DEWEY! **SAVE** ME!

COMING, UNCA DONALD!

THIS GUY DOES!

PRINCE CAD ALI CAD!

ANYBODY BESIDES THE GROOM HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS WEDDING?

PRINCE CAD ALI CAD!

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING! WHAT GOES ON HERE, ANYWAY?

YOUR WEDDING, PRINCE! GET OVER HERE AND SPEAK YOUR PIECE!

UH, OH!

I THOUGHT I BEAT THAT RAP BY GOING TO THE DRIERS! LEMME OUTA HERE!

HOLD EVERYTHING! THAT FLEEING RUNT IS THE **REAL** CAD! THIS OTHER IS AN IMPOSTOR!

AFTER HIM, GUARD! BRING HIM BACK!

I'LL **HELP**, KING!

CAD SKIPPED DOWN THAT CROSS HALL! I'LL GO THIS WAY AND HEAD HIM OFF!

CLANG

COME ON, PRINCE! YOU'RE GOING BACK AND MARRY THAT AWFUL PRINCESS!

JUST TRY AND **MAKE** ME —!

BIFF

PRINCE, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

UH — WHICH ONE OF YOU **IS** PRINCE?

HE IS!

HE IS!

UNCA DONALD,

WHICH ONE IS **YOU**?

I AM!

I AM!

A FINE STATE OF AFFAIRS! BOTH CLAIMING TO BE IMPOSTORS!

LOCK THEM UP! TOMORROW THEY SHALL FIGHT TO A **FINISH** — AND THE ONE THAT SURVIVES WILL HAVE TO WED MY DAUGHTER, PRINCESS NEEDA BARA SOAPA!

THAT'S NO DEAL! UNCA DONALD WOULD LOSE EITHER WAY!

WE'VE **GOT** TO RESCUE HIM **TONIGHT**!

CHECK!

THAT NIGHT

THAT TAKES CARE OF THE GUARD!

A COMMOTION IN THE HALL! THE KIDS ARE HERE TO RESCUE ME!

YOU MEAN TO RESCUE ME, BUD!

HURRY UP, BOYS, AND OPEN THE DOOR!

IS THAT REALLY YOU, UNCA DONALD?

OF COURSE IT IS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

CAREFUL! WE'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR THAT SCIENTIST!

PHOOEY! HE'S FORGOTTEN US! HE'S TEARING AROUND TRYING TO FIND HOW THOSE ANCIENTS WERE DRIED!

THE DESERT IS REACHED WITHOUT EVENT, AND MILES PASS BENEATH THE DUCKS' FLYING FEET! THEN MORNING COMES!

YOW! HOW THIS COUNTRY'S CHANGED! USED TO BE ALL MEADOWS AND FIELDS AROUND HERE!

BY THE BEARD OF THE PROPHET! A GIANT **SNAKE**!

STOP BEING FUNNY, UNCA DONALD! YOU **KNOW** THAT'S AN OIL PIPE LINE TO THE COAST!

OH, SURE! SURE! AN OIL PIPE LINE! YEAH! YEAH!

SAY!!! ...YOU JUST SAID THIS COUNTRY USED TO BE ALL MEADOWS AND FIELDS! **HOW** DID YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE I RAISED CHARIOT HORSES AT MY RANCH RIGHT OVER THERE!

YOU-YOU'RE PRINCE **CAD ALI CAD**!

I SURE **AM**!...TA,TA, BOYS! THANKS FOR HELPING ME OUT OF THAT MESS BACK AT ITSA FAKA!

YOU CHEATER! YOU FAKER!

COME BACK HERE!

NO USE, KIDS! HE'S TOO FAST FOR US!

WE'VE BEEN FOOLED!

AND POOR UNCA DONALD —

HE'S REALLY IN A BAD FIX NOW!

MEANWHILE, IN THE BURIED PALACE OF ITSA FAKA!

THOSE PEOPLE WERE DRIED BY A **RADIUM** VAPOR! THAT'S THE BEST GUESS I CAN MAKE!

SOMEWHERE IN THESE GHOSTLY ROOMS IS A CONTAINER OF THE STUFF! IF I CAN FIND THAT, THE WORLD WILL BE AT MY MERCY!

WHERE ARE ALL THE COOKS AND BUTLERS?

WHERE ARE THE MUSICIANS AND DANCING GIRLS?

THE COOKS AND BUTLERS ARE ALL **DUST**, YOUR MAJESTY! EVEN THE **EATS** ARE DUST! THERE'LL BE NO BREAKFAST! NO NOTHIN'!

WELL, ANYWAY, THERE'LL BE A **WEDDING**! BRING THOSE SQUABBLING DUCKS! LET'S GET ON WITH THE SHOW!

AND SO~

THIS IS THE ONLY ONE THAT'S LEFT, YOUR MAJESTY! THE OTHER HAS ESCAPED!

HE'LL DO! WE'LL HAVE THE OLD-FASHIONED CEREMONY, WHERE THE BRIDE DOES HANDSPRINGS AND THE GROOM IS CARRIED IN ON A TRAY!

IF WE'RE GOING TO HELP UNCA DONALD OUT OF THE MESS WE GOT HIM INTO, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE **SOON**!

YEAH, BUT LOOK AT THAT DUST CLOUD COMING!

OH, MY GOSH! A DESERT **SANDSTORM**!

DUCK FOR COVER!

NOW WE CAN SEE HOW SAND HAS BURIED CITIES LIKE ITSA FAKA!

WE'LL BE LUCKY IF IT DOESN'T BURY **US**!

THE STORM IS SOON OVER, BUT IT HAS MOVED A LOT OF SAND!

EVERYTHING IS CHANGED! THE PLANE, THE SUPPLY DUMP ARE COVERED OVER!

WE'RE **LOST**!

HOW'LL WE KNOW WHERE TO DIG TO FIND THE PALACE?

WE WON'T KNOW! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO **GUESS**!

IN THE PALACE THINGS ARE GOING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE!

HERE COMES THE BRIDE! ♪♪ HERE COMES THE BRIDE!

OKAY, GUARD! PUT THE GROOM ON A TRAY AND BRING HIM IN!

HERE COMES THE GROOM! HERE COMES THE GROOM!

AND HERE COMES THE **END** OF **HUMANITY**! I'VE **FOUND IT**! THE SUBSTANCE THAT TURNS PEOPLE TO **DUST**!

AT LAST I CAN DO AWAY WITH **EVERYBODY**, AND HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD TO BE ALONE IN— YAAAAAAAA!

AND I'D BEGUN TO THINK THAT GUY WAS OKAY!

FIRST, I'LL GIVE **EACH** OF YOU A LITTLE WHIFF OF THIS VAPOR!

YOU'RE NOT GIVING **ME** ANY OF THAT STUFF!

CRACK!

YOU'VE BROKEN THE SEAL! THE VAPOR IS ESCAPING! WE'RE **DOOMED**!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

IT'S CATCHING US, YOUR MAJESTY!

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

OH, WELL! WITH NO EATS IN THIS PLACE, NO MUSIC, NO DANCING GIRLS — WHO CARES —

AIR! I MUST GET TO THE OPEN AIR IF I'M GOING TO LIVE —

TO OWN THE WORLD

CAD ALI CAD IS FEELING VERY SATISFIED WITH HIMSELF!

I'LL TROT OVER TO PERSEPOLIS! THAT WAS A ROARING BOOMTOWN LAST TIME I SAW IT!

WAK!

RATTLETY BANG! CLANK! CHUG!

CHARIOTS THAT ROAR LIKE LIONS! SNAKES LONGER THAN THE EYE CAN SEE! THINGS HAVE CHANGED TOO MUCH! I'M GOING BACK TO ITSA FAKA!

OH, IF WE ONLY KNEW **WHERE** TO DIG!

LOOK!

IT'S CAD ALI CAD —

COMING BACK FOR SOME REASON!

HE'S DIGGING HIS WAY TO THE PALACE!

HE'S **FOUND** IT!

MY WORLD AND **MY** TIMES, I'M COMING BACK TO YOU!

HE DISAPPEARED INTO **DUST**!

!

SOMETHING'S WRONG! DON'T GO IN THERE!

UNCA DONALD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO ANSWER! NOTHING COMES OUT BUT SOME EERIE-LOOKING VAPOR!

LATER! IN THE ROYAL BATHTUB!

THE AIR SEEMS TO HAVE CLEARED! LUCKY I THOUGHT OF THIS TUB OF SOLUTION!

NO MORE OF THAT VAPOR COMING OUT!

LET'S GO IN!

NEVER MIND!

UNCA DONALD!

YOU'RE SAFE!

YES! AND JUST BRIMMING OVER WITH THINGS TO SAY!

WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU **REALLY** UNCA DONALD?

REMEMBER, BACK HOME I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW THAT SCIENTIST-THAT **CURIOSITY IS WHAT KILLED THE CAT!**

Y-YES!

WELL, THIS IS **ONE** TIME I'M **NOT** GOING TO SPANK YOU FOR DISOBEYING ME!

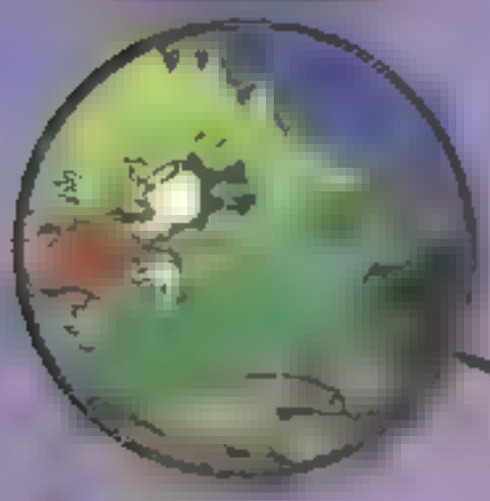
THE **RIGHT** KIND OF CURIOSITY PROBABLY **SAVES** A LOT OF CATS!

NOW GO FIND US SOME **SUPPER**, OR I'LL WHALE THE BLAZES OUT OF YOU!

HE'S UNCA DONALD, ALL RIGHT!

DUCK TALES

BEFORE DUCKTALES



ON SALE BEGINNING MAY 24TH 2006!

Did you know that some of your favorite *DuckTales* stories were created more than 50 years ago by one of the greatest Disney cartoonists of all times! Gemstone Publishing presents a collection of stories written by the legendary Carl Barks, originally published in comic books and then later adapted for the cartoon series *DuckTales*. See these wonderful adventures as they originally appeared and then go back and watch them animated!

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WALT DISNEY'S

THE BEAGLE BOYS in Payback

THOSE BEAGLE BOYS ARE EVEN MORE BROKE THAN USUAL!

NO KIDDING! WE'RE STILL ON *PAROLE* FOR ONE MORE WEEK...

EVEN OUR LEAKS HAVE LEAKS! WE NEED *DOUGH* TO FIX OUR ROOF- BUT WE DON'T DARE STEAL ANY!

...AND WE *GOTTA* AVOID LAW TROUBLE!

176-761

176-167

SURELY WE'VE GOT SOME MONEY *HIDDEN* SOMEPLACE!

SAYY...THOSE JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS REMIND ME OF OUR VERY *FIRST HEIST!*

BACK WHEN WE WERE JUST KIDS! THAT'S WHAT GOT US INTO OUR FIRST *LOCKUP!*

YEP! THE *LITTLE SHAVERS' HOME FOR DELINQUENT YOUTHS!*

CONDEMNED

THERE WAS A COZY RATS' NEST!

NO WORRIES ABOUT A *ROOF* OVER YOUR HEAD! OR THE LACK THEREOF!

176-761

REMEMBER? WE *DRESSED* LIKE WOODCHUCKS AND GRABBED ONE O' THE R GOLD-PLATED *TROOPER TROPHIES!*

AND A BIG JAR OF *QUARTERS!* A YEAR'S WOODCHUCK DUES!

176 761

THE LITTLE BUGGERS GOT THE QUARTERS BACK, BUT DIDN'T WE *BURY* THE TROPHY SOMEWHERE?

I CAN'T REMEMBER!

NEITHER CAN I!

NOR I!

AHA!

176-611

176-176

RIGHT *AT* THAT DUMB WOODCHUCK CAMP!

JUST BEFORE THEY NABBED US!

WE NEED A *PLAN* TO RECOVER IT, MEN!

LET'S DRESS UP LIKE WOODCHUCKS *AGAIN!*

176-761

176-671

THAT WOULDN'T WORK, YOU DOPE! WE'RE TOO *OLD* NOW TO PASS FOR WOODCHUCKS!

OH!

176-761

176-671

HEY! WE'RE NOT *TOO OLD* TO PASS FOR WOODCHUCK *LEADERS!*

YEAH! CAMPING AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT GLORIFIED *HOMELESSNESS!*

WE'RE *GOOD* AT THAT!

176-176

176-761

THE NEXT MORNING THE BOYS ATTEMPT A MOST HORRIBLE IMPERSON-ATION!

HUP HUP HUP!

WELCOME TO CA... ANAWA...

?

FIRST A.D

CANTEEN

GOOD MORNING, SIRS! WE SUPERIOR TOP-NOTCH COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF ARE HERE FOR A *COMPLETE* CAMPSITE INSPECTION!

TOP-NOTCH...? I NEVER HEARD OF THAT TITLE!

WE *ARE* EXPECTING TO BE EVALUATED BY HEADQUARTERS!

WHAT IS THIS, *INSUBORDINATION?* ON YOUR TOES, GENTLEMEN, OR YOU'LL BE CLEANING LATRINES IN OUR SIBERIAN DISTRICT!

LET'S HURRY AND GET OUR TROPHY BEFORE THEY CHECK ON US!

NO WAY! LET'S GO *SLOW* AND *ENJOY* THIS!

THOSE GUYS LOOK AWFUL *FAT* AND *UNKEMPT* TO BE WOODCHUCK LEADERS!

AND THOSE UNIFORMS AREN'T REGULATION ISSUE!

ATTENTION, TROOPERS! GIVE US A TOUR OF YOUR CAMP!

ER...YES, SIRS!

AWW...LOOKIT THE CUTE KITTY!

THAT'S A *RACCOON*, NOT A CAT...*SIR!*

ER...AHA! OF COURSE! I WAS JUST... EH...*TESTING* YOU!

HMM!

LOOK, 761! THESE GUYS HAVE *SHOVELS* WITH 'EM!

HOW *CONVENIENT!*

HALT, TROOPERS! WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU WOODKOOKS A LITTLE PROJECT!

THAT'S *WOOD-CHUCKS*, SIR!

PAT! PAT!

OF COURSE IT IS! SILLY ME!

WE HAVE A NICE *CONVER-SATION* PROJECT FOR YOU TROOPERS TO PERFORM!

DON'T YOU MEAN A *CONSERVATION* PROJECT?

GEE! THESE KIDS ARE *STICKLERS* ABOUT WORDS!

GRAB A SHOVEL OR PICK, CHUCKIES! YOU'RE DIGGIN' SOME REFUSE PITS!

?

HMM! IF THESE GUYS ARE WOODCHUCK COMMANDERS, I'M A LITTLE BOONEHEAD!

THERE'S TRICKERY AFOOT, ALL RIGHT!

MANY HOLES AND HOURS LATER!

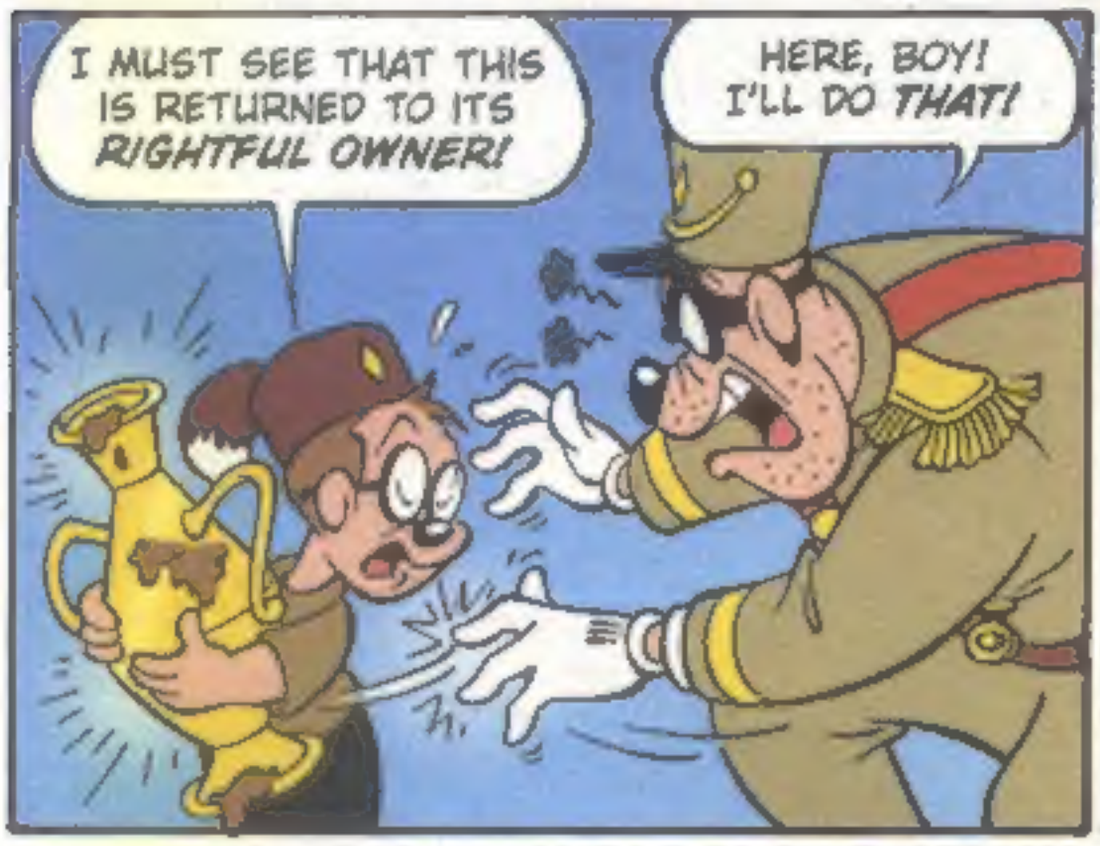
I'M *SURE* WE BURIED THAT TROPHY BY THIS CREEK!

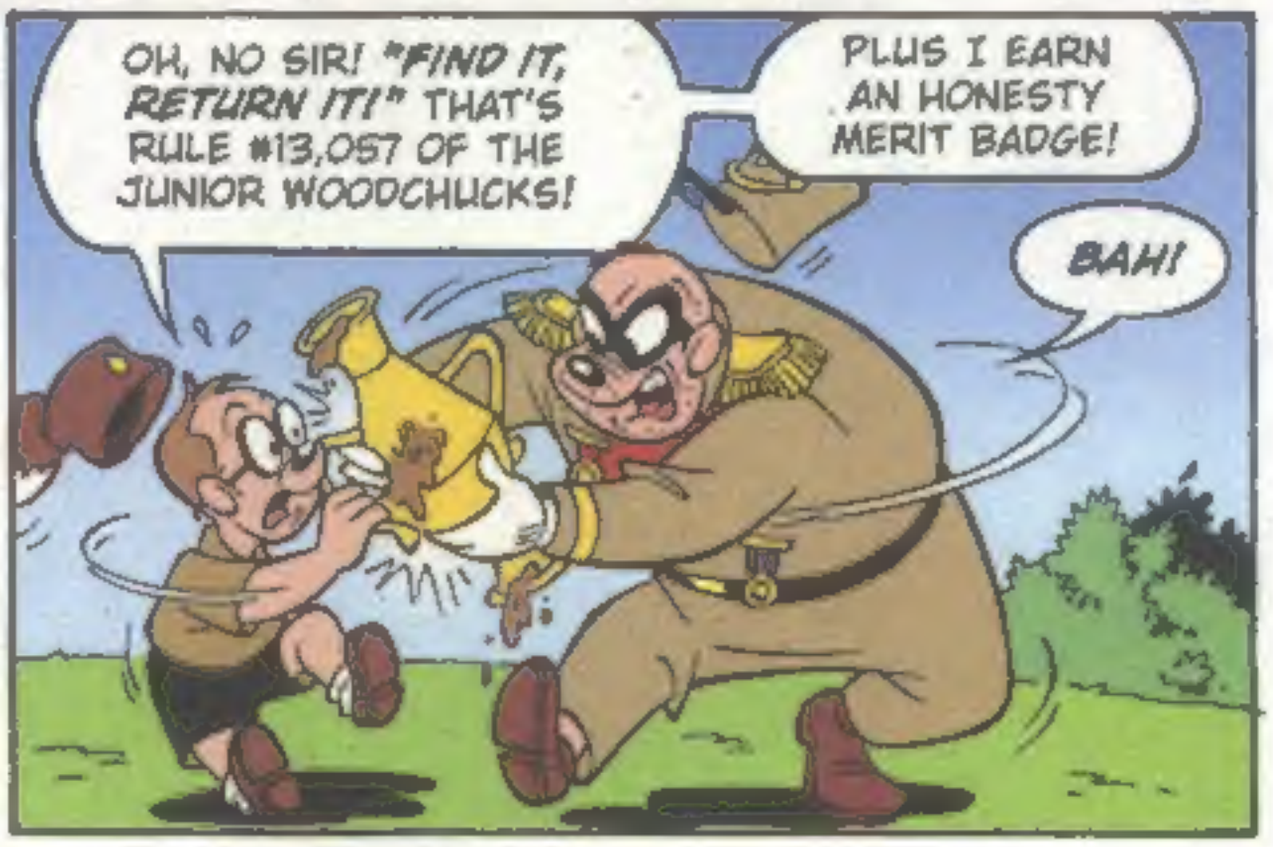
BUT IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO!

IT SURE IS HARD TO FIND!

HEY, I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
CLANG

A GOLD-PLATED TROPHY!


I MUST SEE THAT THIS IS RETURNED TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!
HERE, BOY! I'LL DO THAT!


OH, NO SIR! "FIND IT, RETURN IT!" THAT'S RULE #13,057 OF THE JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS!
PLUS I EARN AN HONESTY MERIT BADGE!
BAH!

GIVE US THAT TROPHY!
NEVER, SIRS!

ADIOS!
OK! LET'S MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
HA!

WHAT A BUNCHA SUCKERS!
IT'S JUST LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE RIPPED 'EM OFF!
ONLY EASIER!
EXIT THIS WAY

SPRONG!
HEY!

OUR *TROPHY!*

OH, THOSE *SNEAKY* WOOD-CHUCKS!

YOU CAN'T *TRUST* 'EM AN INCH!

DID I STALL THEM LONG ENOUGH, GENERALS?

YOU BET, DUDLEY! WE HAD JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SET THIS SNARE, AND... *WHOA!* THE LEGENDARY *LOST 1981 TROOPER TROPHY!*

MEN, I THINK WE'VE SOLVED A VERY OLD MYSTERY!

RATS!

IT'S BACK TO THE BIG HOUSE FOR THE BEAGLES!

DONE IN BY WOODCHUCKS...

...AGAIN...

FOR THE *SAME* CRIME AS *LAST* TIME!

FOILED, FOILED AND *FOILED!*

LOOK ON THE *BRIGHT SIDE,* GUYS!

AT LEAST WE DON'T HAFTA WORRY ABOUT A LEAKIN' *ROOF* OVER OUR HEADS!

176-167

Comic book covers are usually funny or dramatic, depending on the character or genre in question. Seldom, however, is a cover simply "nice." Daan Jippes' cover to *Donald Duck and Friends* 336 is just "nice"! A gracefully skating Donald successfully cutting a heart on the surface of a frozen pond, while his lady-love Daisy looks on in appreciation, is all but the definition of "nice."

Like the heart-on-ice, let's keep this image frozen as it is before Don's blades cut too deeply and he plunges into the hypothermic H_2O, or some bizarre natural phenomenon occurs directly in front of the just-out-of-frame Gladstone Gander, adorning the ice around him with a dozen perfectly shaped heart carvings to draw Daisy's attentions away from poor old Don! Nope, we'll leave this moment exactly as we see it... nice! Donald deserves it!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

I knew I'd like February's offering of *Donald Duck and Friends* as soon as I saw the cover. Donald performing for his love, Daisy, skating a heart into the ice of Duckburg's placid pond. Simple, tasteful, and wonderfully done. And such exquisite color, too. Ahh, what romance!

The stories inside were excellent as well. Carl Barks' "Biceps Blues" was extremely good, and the early panels in which Donald attempts mastery of a 300-pound barbell had me rolling with laughter. What a great Mickey story too. Very clever use of Mickey's undying curiosity even at the expense of his date with Minnie, and with a touching conclusion to boot.

"Again and Again" by Kari Korhonen was a clever take on Groundhog Day, continuing the recent *DD&F* run of movie spoofs. What great stories, all. I said I knew I'd like February's offering as soon as I saw the cover, and I was right. Great job.

Since the non-monthly titles don't have letter columns, now would be a good time to comment on 2005's *Christmas Parade*, which was perhaps the best since the old Western Publishing comics in my mind for one simple reason—it did not consist solely of classic reprints. Along with the required Barks, there was a brand new (to me) Romano Scarpa Mickey Mouse story and a Marco Rota Uncle Scrooge. Both were excellent, especially the Scarpa tale. Let's see his stuff on a more regular basis. What do you think?

"Sentimental Energy" was pretty good, although I have to admit it was better the second time around when I knew that Uncle Scrooge was in an unconscious state. The first time around it seemed kind of weird, I guess because it involved light-based aliens and such. Rota's stories are so, well, different from other authors' that sometimes they're difficult to digest in one sitting. But as was the case with this one, their high quality is apparent in later readings.

Finally, "Somewhere in Nowhere," in the *Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge* special, along with the behind-the-scenes essays from Patrick Block and John Lustig, made for a tremendous comic book. Thoroughly enjoyable, with an excellent script and equally excellent artwork. Although I was planning to buy it anyway, I had been concerned, given the various difficulties encountered, that the story and comic book wouldn't be any good. I was very wrong, and am I ever glad. I also very much appreciated the aforementioned essays. I might be in the minority in this regard, but I thirst for knowledge and background information on all the stories and all the writers and artists as well. I would be content to give up as many as five or six pages an issue in that regard (I'm sure I'm in the minority here). It saves me a lot of research. Anyway, thank you for printing this book. I have very much enjoyed it.

Oh, and in several places on the internet I've noticed that it is referred to as *Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge* #1. Is there going to be a number 2 at some point?

—Robert Hutchings
via email

And thank you for all the commentary, Robert. You will note that I've strung several of your letters together in order to accommodate your observations on Christmas Parade *3 and the* Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge *one-shot.*

No, we don't have any plans to make DD&US *a recurring title. That doesn't preclude the possibility of another one-shot if one is justified, but nothing is in the works at this time.*

—John Clark

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